

THE NEWS HERALD

Grant County Life

50 cents

Volume 53, Number 8

A Hometown Media, Inc. Publication.

April 28-May 4, 2021

DEATHS

April 22-29  
Angela "Angie" Kaye Cummings  
1983-2021

The family will receive visitors from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, April 30, 2021, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service, North Chapel. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate Cummings' life will begin at noon. Pastor Mick Simpkins will be officiating.

Val Morris McGlothlin  
1937-2021  
A private memorial service for McGlothlin will be held at a later date.

Michael Allen Smith  
1960-2021  
The family will host a private graveside service to celebrate Smith's life. Burial will take place at Estates of Serenity.

James Lee Obenchain, II  
Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Tuesday, April 20 at 11 a.m. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery.

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INDIANA QUIZ

- 1. Each state is represented by two statues in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol. Which two of the following represent Indiana? a/ Benjamin Harrison b/ Lew Wallace c/ Oliver P. Morton d/ Jonathan Jennings
- 2. Whose statue stands in front of the Scott County Courthouse in Scottsburg? a/ Abraham Lincoln b/ Zachary Taylor c/ William H. English d/ Thomas Posey
- 3. Whose statue stands in front of the Hancock County Courthouse in Greenfield? a/ James Whitcomb Riley b/ John Hancock c/ James Madison d/ Sarah Bolton

Answers on page 3



MGH to improve, expand country club

By Ed Breen

The president of Marion General Hospital's board of directors confirmed in an interview last week that the hospital has committed to spending \$600,000 over three years to improve and expand the Meshingomesia Country Club in Marion.

Timothy Dailey, who heads the board that governs the not-for-profit hospital that serves Marion and Grant County, said the purpose of the spending from the hospital's cash reserves is two-fold: "We are doing it for the wellness of our employees" and "We have to have this country club in our town."

The century-old country club was originally a nine-hole golf course on about 50 acres northeast of Marion on Lagro Road. The clubhouse was built in 1907 and the golf course was expanded to 18 holes in 1957.

It was created as a members-only non-profit club, but as membership and revenues declined in recent



Meshingomesia Country Club in Marion, Indiana.

years it has been in private ownership, first through the Morehead family and more recently by the Riddle family.

Covid forced the closure of both the golf course and the country club facilities nearly a year ago and it has not yet reopened.

Under the plan approved

by the hospital compensation committee, the hospital will buy 100 annual memberships in the club each year for three years and those memberships will be made available to some of the 1,600 employees of the hospital. The hospital is the largest employer in Grant County.

Dailey declined to say exactly how the memberships would be distributed, but said he and others involved in making the decision see the availability of country club membership as "a significant recruiting tool" in bringing physicians and other high-level hospital management to Marion. He

said the memberships would not be available to members of the board of directors.

He said the memberships are valued at between \$1,700 and \$2,200 per year. Thus, the 100 memberships for three years carry a value of about \$600,000.

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Cain announces upcoming budget committee meetings to discuss American Rescue Plan

Marion Common Council President Deborah Cain announced on Tuesday that the Common Council will use the Budget Committee to study the needs of the city for spending \$5.82 million from the American Rescue Plan, or ARP. The Committee will also study the city's use of the CARES Act fund of \$960,000.

The Budget Committee consists of all nine members of the Council, giving each Ward representation during this process.

The Committee will hold public hearing to do the following:

- Receive input and discuss areas of concern from residents and businesses in the City of Marion,
- Discuss how Federal funding from ARP can be used to address those concerns within the City Departments, and

Discuss specific allocation of funds.

The topics for these hearings will initially involve the areas of blight elimination (removal of buildings, vehicles, signs, and so on.) and infrastructure (roads, streets, sidewalks). Each Council member has been asked to submit a list of 20 areas of blight they would like addressed in their districts and a list of 20 streets they would like repaired.

The public is also invited and encouraged to bring their own list of priorities to these meetings. Other topics will be announced as more hearings are scheduled.

The Budget Committee will hold these meetings after 6 p.m. to accommodate Council members who have daytime responsibilities and the public who wish to attend these meetings. The Committee will

also schedule a few Saturday meetings if needed to accommodate schedules.

The Council plans to share the results of these meetings with the public and Mayor Jess Alumbaugh's administration. Early indications are that the city will have until 2024 to spend the ARP money. Given the amount of money received, Cain stated that it is imperative that the city spends the money wisely, establishes long-term priorities and goals, and improves government operations in the short term.

The goal of this Committee will be to produce a public document that can be used to prioritize the current spending of the ARP funds and also prepare for future finding. Upon completion, it will be submitted to the Council and administration.

Two dead in fatal one-vehicle crash

Two people were killed in a one-vehicle accident on Monday evening, according to Grant County Sheriff's Department Captain Ed Beaty.

At approximately 6:12 p.m., Grant County Central Dispatch received a 911 call reporting a vehicle crashing into a tree in the area of 3600 East County Road 950 South. Deputies from the Sheriff's Department, along with officers from the Fairmount Police Department, responded.

According to a news release from the Sheriff's Department:

Upon arrival, officers found an SUV, sitting off the roadway in a yard. The SUV appeared to have struck a utility pole and a tree and was occupied by a white male driver and a white female front passenger. Medical aid was rendered, but both the driver and passenger died.

A preliminary investigation showed that the vehicle was eastbound on County Road

950 South and at some point became sideways, left the roadway, and struck a telephone junction box and a utility pole. The vehicle rolled several times, striking a tree before coming to a rest. The vehicle traveled approximately 270 feet from the point of first impact to its final resting point.

The crash is still under investigation, and the reason for the crash is undetermined at this point.

The names of the vehicle's occupants are being withheld at this time for positive identification and notification of the family.

Also assisting in this investigation was the Grant County Sheriff's Department's Crash Investigation Team 1, the Grant County Sheriff's Department Chaplin's Office, the Grant County Coroner's Office, Fairmount Fire Department, Grant County E.M.S., and Marion General Hospital were also on the scene.